

GSM

Philippians 4:1-5

I. Philippians 4:1

A. **Therefore**

1. This is a connector word to the last chapter which was a warning against legalism

B. Paul uses a **progression** of **six** expressions of connection and love in this verse before he brings further correction to them

1. We need to bring correction with love- **Eph. 4:15**

2. If people know or feel you do not care about them they will not be open to your correction.

C. **my brethren**- speaks of family

D. **my beloved**- speaks of closeness

E. **longed for**- speaks of passion

F. **my joy**- speaks of deep fulfillment

G. **my crown**- Gr. **stephanos**- *wreath won after competing*- this is the height of human connection- when you are willing to fight for another.

H. This is the progression that God wants us to have towards each other in the body of Christ. We must realize first we are family. Then we move on to share genuine love. You can be family and not be close emotionally or love one another. We move even deeper to experience true passion for each other. This brings a deep fulfillment in our lives in the form of joy. When we follow this progression we will then be willing to fight for each other. A crown was given when you won a competition in which you struggled.

1. We must earn the right to bring correction

a. **Prov. 27:6**- Faithful are the wounds of a friend

b. **Prov. 9:8**- To determine which is a scorner or a wise man you must know and be acquainted with them

I. **stand fast in the Lord**- Gr. **steko**- *to maintain one's ground*- this was a military word. We need to stand our ground against the enemy who wants to bring us in the bondage of legalism.

1. We are to stand fast in the Lord not in our works or performance but in Christ's

2. We are to stand fast in the righteousness given to us through Jesus Christ through grace

3. We are to stand from our union with Christ. The phrases in Christ and in the Lord could be translated as our union with the Lord. Christ

is the source of the fruit of the Spirit- love, patience, gentleness, self-control..

J. **my beloved**- Paul **repeats** this for the second time in the verse. He really wants these saints know that he is bringing correction out of his great love for them. Paul is about to bring correction to the problem of disunity that is in the congregation and he is about to deal with two ladies by name who are causing a big stir and problem in the congregation.

II. Philippians 4:2

A. **beseech**- Gr. **parakaleo**- *to call near* – Paul now directs his attention to and calls out to two women who are fighting and says to them, “**TIME OUT!** Calm down and come over here and let’s talk about this!”

B. **Euodias**- *prosperous*- This was a probably a rich and influential lady in the church who had her agenda and opinions that crossed Syntyche

C. **Suntuche**- *pleasant acquaintance*- This lady probably was a mixer and a very social woman who had her agenda and opinions which crossed Euodias

1. These two ladies were acting in the flesh and they were acting like their names look like- “**you odious!**” and, “**soon touchy!**”

D. **be of the same mind**

1. How can we have the same mind when we have different opinions and different agendas? The answer is found by the next phrase- “**in the Lord!**”

2. When we are contrary to another we need to go before the Lord in prayer and get His opinion and seek His path of peace.

a. **Rom. 12:18**- As far as it is up to you -live at peace. However, sometimes people will just not be at peace with you no matter what. Sometimes God will call on you to yield.

b. When we think we have won a fight with others, we actually have lost with God and with the enemy! **1 Cor. 6:7**- You already lost and failed when you are fighting to be right!

c. Many people can't stand to just drop a matter or let them selves look like they lost in a disagreement. You can lose an argument by yielding, but you will win with God and the enemy!

1. There are times we are to stand up to those who oppose us but it is for the **greater good** and for the good of **other people** involved. More often or not we fight tooth and nail for our own honor and reputation.

2. The question to ask is, “What would love do?”

E. in the Lord

1. When two believers go before God with their case, God will without fail lead a person to look at where they are wrong in attitude and action instead of where someone else is wrong! It is amazing God is never interested in talking about my wife's mistakes and how she is wrong!
2. A successful marriage is based upon two believers that are open to God and allow Him to point out where they are wrong and then they repent and ask for forgiveness from one another.
3. Do not marry a person who is quick to be offended and slow to forgive. This is why you should not rush into getting married!

III. Philippians 4:3

A. **true yoke-fellow**- This probably refers to Epaphroditus who was the bearer of this letter back to the Philippians

1. Epaphroditus was a genuine yoke fellow with Paul and labored with him
2. Epaphroditus was of a character who could be a peaceful arbitrator with these two ladies
3. Paul called Epaphroditus as a church leader to get involved with this conflict. We should not butt into conflict with other believers unless we are invited in by them to do so or unless we are a leader in the church and God directs is to get involved for the good of the body.
 - a. **Prov. 26:27**- If you pull on a dog's ear you will get bit! The same thing will happen when you meddle in a conflict that does not concern you!

B. **who labored with me**- Gr. **sunathleo**- to strive together; to compete- These women strived and competed alongside of Paul, they are now striving and competing with each other! They were treating each other as competitors in a contest. When we get into the flesh we can really stoop low and do childish and foolish things.

C. **with Clement**- possibly the future bishop of Rome a famous early church father- These ladies were used in the past to help the great Apostle Paul and the great future bishop of Rome and now they are in a fight pulling their hair out in a petty fight! This is sad but played out in churches every day.

D. **my fellow-laborers**- Gr. **sungergos**- These two ladies used to be close ministry partners who served as deaconesses but now they have become envious of one another. One of the reasons this has taken

place is the presence of legalism entering into the church which gives rise to pride and envy.

E. whose names are in the book of life- This is the same book as the Lamb's book of life. Every one's name was written in this book when Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. If one chooses to reject Christ, their name is blotted out of the book

1. **Rev. 3:5-** Those who overcome- this means those who are born again- [**1 John 5:4**]- they will not be blotted out of the book. All unbelievers are blotted out.

IV. Philippians 4:4

A. Rejoice in the Lord

1. This is one of the greatest keys to overcome a nasty attitude towards others- praise and thank God for every good thing in your life both natural and spiritual! Thank Him for forgiving you and being good to you even when you have acted snotty. This will get your self straightened out pretty quick; because once we look at how God has treated us we will be able to treat others the same way.

B. Again, I say rejoice

1. Paul could hear these two ladies say, "Ok Paul, good suggestion, we will think about doing that!"
2. Paul says, "**AGAIN**, I say, "**REJOICE!**" It was not a good suggestion or a possible solution to their problems. It was a command that would bring resolution to their problems! It was a command for them to start right now!
3. To choose to rejoice when our emotions are stirred up, will bring our pride down and our humility up! Pride blinds to one's own faults! Humility receives grace !

V. Philippians 4:5

A. Let your moderation- Gr. **epieikes-** *willing to listen to reason and yield.* Hardness of heart takes place when you stop listening to reason and refuse to yield at all.

1. If we would take James advice we would model this virtue- **James 1:19**
 - a. **Let every person-** some think they are God's gift of wisdom that all must listen to. We **all** need to shut up and listen!

- b. **swift to hear**- We need to open up our ears and actually listen fully to what is being said to us. This means to focus on what is being said without reloading in our minds!
- c. **slow to speak**- This means to not interrupt! If you will practice the art of not interrupting you will hear so much more
- d. **slow to anger**- the key to being slow to anger is listening and not interrupting. Once two people refuse to listen and fight for air time then anger will escalate.
- e. This is a learned and acquired skill that must be mastered in you will be successful in ministry!

B. be made known to all men

1. The temptation of our flesh when we have a disagreement with someone else is to make all men know about our problems and how we are right and how someone else is wrong in what they did and said.
2. If we will rejoice in the Lord and practice James 1:19 when we have disagreements our example will speak loudly, even to the one whom we had a disagreement with!

C. The Lord is at hand

1. This speaks of not judging others, which we have a tendency to do when we get into a disagreement with someone. There is only one judge and He is at the door. We need to leave people in God's hands and let Him be their Judge. **1 Cor. 4:5**